

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
2 interface, comprising:
3 a) assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an identifier;
4 b) receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first web-page,
5 wherein the request includes an identifier;
6 c) identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier using the
7 identifier;
8 d) displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third web-page
9 if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the user is
10 identified as a supplier;
11 e) receiving a request from a distributor, the request including a plurality of
12 distributor parameters;
13 f) extracting information from the database relevant to the distributor parameters in
14 response to the request for displaying the information on the third web-page;
15 g) receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a plurality of supplier
16 parameters; and
17 h) extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier parameters in
18 response to the request for displaying the information on the fourth web-page.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a contract utilizing at least
2 one of the web-pages, associating the contract with an item to be distributed
3 utilizing the at least one web-page, and preventing the item from being associated
4 with more than one contract.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving bid data utilizing at least one
2 of the web-pages, and generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the

bid data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin date, and a contract end date.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components, listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one web-page, and selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at least one of the web-pages, allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one web-page, and calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

6. A computer program product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management interface, comprising:

- a) computer code for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an identifier;
- b) computer code for receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- c) computer code for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier using the identifier;
- d) computer code for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- e) computer code for receiving a request from a distributor, the request including a plurality of distributor parameters;
- f) computer code for extracting information from the database relevant to the distributor parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the third web-page;

- 17 g) computer code for receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a
 18 plurality of supplier parameters; and
 19 h) computer code for extracting information from the database relevant to the
 20 supplier parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
 21 the fourth web-page.

1 7. The computer program product of claim 6, further comprising computer code for
 2 identifying a contract utilizing at least one of the web-pages, computer code for
 3 associating the contract with an item to be distributed utilizing the at least one
 4 web-page, and computer code for preventing the item from being associated with
 5 more than one contract.

1 8. The computer program product of claim 6, further comprising computer code for
 2 receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages, and computer code for
 3 generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid data is selected from
 4 the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin date, and a
 5 contract end date.

1 9. The computer program product of claim 6, further comprising computer code for
 2 entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for
 3 a plurality of supply chain components, computer code for listing results of the
 4 search in a results field of the at least one web-page, and computer code for
 5 selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

1 10. The computer program product of claim 6, further comprising computer code for
 2 displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at least one of the web-
 3 pages, computer code for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at
 4 least one web-page, and computer code for calculating a projected parameter
 5 amount associated with the supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

- 1 11. A system for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
 2 interface, comprising:
 3 a) means for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an
 4 identifier;
 5 b) means for receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first
 6 web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
 7 c) means for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier
 8 using the identifier;
 9 d) means for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third
 10 web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the
 11 user is identified as a supplier;
 12 e) means for receiving a request from a distributor, the request including a plurality
 13 of distributor parameters;
 14 f) means for extracting information from the database relevant to the distributor
 15 parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the third
 16 web-page;
 17 g) means for receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a plurality of
 18 supplier parameters; and
 19 h) means for extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier
 20 parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the fourth
 21 web-page.

- 1 12. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for identifying a contract
 2 utilizing at least one of the web-pages, means for associating the contract with an
 3 item to be distributed utilizing the at least one web-page, and means for
 4 preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract.

- 1 13. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for receiving bid data utilizing
 2 at least one of the web-pages, and means for generating a bid proposal using the
 3 bid data, wherein the bid data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer
 4 name, a due date, a contract begin date, and a contract end date.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for entering a query in a search
 2 field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain
 3 components, means for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least
 4 one web-page, and means for selecting the results from the results field for
 5 inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

1 15. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for displaying a plurality of
 2 supply chain distributors utilizing at least one of the web-pages, means for
 3 allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one web-page, and
 4 means for calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the supply
 5 chain distributors based on the growth value.

1 16. A computer product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain
 2 management interface, comprising:
 3 a) a computer signal for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and
 4 suppliers an identifier;
 5 b) a computer signal for receiving a request from a user for access to a database
 6 utilizing a first web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
 7 c) a computer signal for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and
 8 supplier using the identifier;
 9 d) a computer signal for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a
 10 store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-
 11 page if the user is identified as a supplier;
 12 e) a computer signal for receiving a request from a distributor, the request including
 13 a plurality of distributor parameters;
 14 f) a computer signal for extracting information from the database relevant to the
 15 distributor parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
 16 the third web-page;
 17 g) a computer signal for receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a
 18 plurality of supplier parameters; and

19 h) a computer signal for extracting information from the database relevant to the
 20 supplier parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
 21 the fourth web-page.

1 17. The computer product of claim 16, further comprising a computer signal for
 2 identifying a contract utilizing at least one of the web-pages, a computer signal for
 3 associating the contract with an item to be distributed utilizing the at least one
 4 web-page, and a computer signal for preventing the item from being associated
 5 with more than one contract.

1 18. The computer product of claim 16, further comprising a computer signal for
 2 receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages, and a computer signal
 3 for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid data is selected
 4 from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin date, and
 5 a contract end date.

1 19. The computer product of claim 16, further comprising a computer signal for
 2 entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for
 3 a plurality of supply chain components, a computer signal for listing results of the
 4 search in a results field of the at least one web-page, and a computer signal for
 5 selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

1 20. The computer product of claim 16, further comprising a computer signal for
 2 displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at least one of the web-
 3 pages, a computer signal for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at
 4 least one web-page, and a computer signal for calculating a projected parameter
 5 amount associated with the supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

1 21. A computer product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain
 2 management interface, comprising:

- 3 a) means for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an
- 4 identifier;
- 5 b) means for receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first
- 6 web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) means for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier
- 8 using the identifier; and
- 9 d) means for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third
- 10 web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the
- 11 user is identified as a supplier.

- 1 22. A method for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
- 2 interface, comprising the steps of:
- 3 a) receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-based supply chain
- 4 management interface, the request including a plurality of distributor parameters;
- 5 b) extracting information from a database relevant to the distributor parameters in
- 6 response to the request;
- 7 c) receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-based supply chain
- 8 management interface, the request including a plurality of supplier parameters;
- 9 d) extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier parameters in
- 10 response to the request;
- 11 e) identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply chain management
- 12 interface;
- 13 f) associating the contract with an item to be distributed; and
- 14 g) preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract.

- 1 23. A computer program product for navigating a user in a network-based supply
- 2 chain management interface, comprising:
- 3 a) computer code for receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-based
- 4 supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of distributor
- 5 parameters;

- b) computer code for extracting information from a database relevant to the distributor parameters in response to the request;
- c) computer code for receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of supplier parameters;
- d) computer code for extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier parameters in response to the request;
- e) computer code for identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply chain management interface;
- f) computer code for associating the contract with an item to be distributed; and
- g) computer code for preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract.

- 24. A system for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management interface, comprising:
 - a) means for receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of distributor parameters;
 - b) means for extracting information from a database relevant to the distributor parameters in response to the request;
 - c) means for receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of supplier parameters;
 - d) means for extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier parameters in response to the request;
 - e) means for identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply chain management interface;
 - f) means for associating the contract with an item to be distributed; and
 - g) means for preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract.

- 1 25. A computer product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain
 2 management interface, comprising:
 3 a) a computer signal for receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-
 4 based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of
 5 distributor parameters;
 6 b) a computer signal for extracting information from a database relevant to the
 7 distributor parameters in response to the request;
 8 c) a computer signal for receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-
 9 based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of
 10 supplier parameters;
 11 d) a computer signal for extracting information from the database relevant to the
 12 supplier parameters in response to the request;
 13 e) a computer signal for identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply
 14 chain management interface;
 15 f) a computer signal for associating the contract with an item to be distributed; and
 16 g) a computer signal for preventing the item from being associated with more than
 17 one contract.

- 1 26. A method for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
 2 interface, comprising the steps:
 3 a) assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an identifier;
 4 b) receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first web-page,
 5 wherein the request includes an identifier;
 6 c) identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier using the
 7 identifier;
 8 d) displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third web-page
 9 if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the user is
 10 identified as a supplier;
 11 e) receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;

- 12 f) generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid data is selected from
- 13 the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin date, and a
- 14 contract end date;
- 15 g) entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for
- 16 a plurality of supply chain components;
- 17 h) listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one web-page; and
- 18 (i) selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

- 1 27. A computer program product for navigating a user in a network-based supply
- 2 chain management interface, comprising:
- 3 a) computer code for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and
- 4 suppliers an identifier;
- 5 b) computer code for receiving a request from a user for access to a database
- 6 utilizing a first web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) computer code for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and
- 8 supplier using the identifier;
- 9 d) computer code for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a
- 10 store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-
- 11 page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- 12 e) computer code for receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 13 f) computer code for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid
- 14 data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract
- 15 begin date, and a contract end date;
- 16 g) computer code for entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-
- 17 pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components;
- 18 h) computer code for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one
- 19 web-page; and
- 20 (i) computer code for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a
- 21 supply chain analysis.

- 1 28. A computer product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain
- 2 management interface, comprising:
- 3 a) a computer signal for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and
- 4 suppliers an identifier;
- 5 b) a computer signal for receiving a request from a user for access to a database
- 6 utilizing a first web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) a computer signal for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and
- 8 supplier using the identifier;
- 9 d) a computer signal for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a
- 10 store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-
- 11 page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- 12 e) a computer signal for receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 13 f) a computer signal for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid
- 14 data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract
- 15 begin date, and a contract end date;
- 16 g) a computer signal for entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-
- 17 pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components;
- 18 h) a computer signal for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least
- 19 one web-page; and
- 20 (i) a computer signal for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a
- 21 supply chain analysis.

- 1 29. A system for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
- 2 interface, comprising:
- 3 a) means for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an
- 4 identifier;
- 5 b) means for receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first
- 6 web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) means for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier
- 8 using the identifier;

- d) means for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- e) means for receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- f) means for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin date, and a contract end date;
- g) means for entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components;
- h) means for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one web-page; and
- (i) means for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

- 30. A method for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management interface, comprising the steps of:
 - a) receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of distributor parameters;
 - b) extracting information from a database relevant to the distributor parameters in response to the request;
 - c) receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of supplier parameters;
 - d) extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier parameters in response to the request;
 - e) identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply chain management interface;
 - f) associating the contract with an item to be distributed;
 - g) preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract;
 - h) displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
 - i) allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one web-page; and

18 j) calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the supply chain
 19 distributors based on the growth value.

1 31. A computer program product for navigating a user in a network-based supply
 2 chain management interface, comprising:

3 a) computer code for receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-based
 4 supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of distributor
 5 parameters;

6 b) computer code for extracting information from a database relevant to the
 7 distributor parameters in response to the request;

8 c) computer code for receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-based
 9 supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of supplier
 10 parameters;

11 d) computer code for extracting information from the database relevant to the
 12 supplier parameters in response to the request;

13 e) computer code for identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply chain
 14 management interface;

15 f) computer code for associating the contract with an item to be distributed;

16 g) computer code for preventing the item from being associated with more than one
 17 contract;

18 h) computer code for displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at
 19 least one of the web-pages;

20 i) computer code for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one
 21 web-page; and

22 j) computer code for calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the
 23 supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

1 32. A computer product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain
 2 management interface, comprising:

- 3 a) a computer signal for receiving a request from a distributor utilizing a network-
- 4 based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of
- 5 distributor parameters;
- 6 b) a computer signal for extracting information from a database relevant to the
- 7 distributor parameters in response to the request;
- 8 c) a computer signal for receiving a request from a supplier utilizing the network-
- 9 based supply chain management interface, the request including a plurality of
- 10 supplier parameters;
- 11 d) a computer signal for extracting information from the database relevant to the
- 12 supplier parameters in response to the request;
- 13 e) a computer signal for identifying a contract utilizing the network-based supply
- 14 chain management interface;
- 15 f) a computer signal for associating the contract with an item to be distributed;
- 16 g) a computer signal for preventing the item from being associated with more than
- 17 one contract;
- 18 h) a computer signal for displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing
- 19 at least one of the web-pages;
- 20 i) a computer signal for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least
- 21 one web-page; and
- 22 j) a computer signal for calculating a projected parameter amount associated with
- 23 the supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

- 1 33. A method for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
- 2 interface, comprising the steps of:
- 3 a) assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an identifier;
- 4 b) receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first web-page,
- 5 wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 6 c) identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier using the
- 7 identifier;

- d) displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- e) receiving a request from a distributor, the request including a plurality of distributor parameters;
- f) extracting information from the database relevant to the distributor parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the third web-page;
- g) receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a plurality of supplier parameters;
- h) extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the fourth web-page;
- i) identifying a contract utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- j) associating the contract with an item to be distributed utilizing the at least one web-page;
- k) preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract;
- l) receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- m) generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin date, and a contract end date;
- n) entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components;
- o) listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one web-page;
- p) selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis;
- q) displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- r) allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one web-page; and
- s) calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

34. A computer program product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management interface, comprising:

- 3 a) computer code for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and
- 4 suppliers an identifier;
- 5 b) computer code for receiving a request from a user for access to a database
- 6 utilizing a first web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) computer code for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and
- 8 supplier using the identifier;
- 9 d) computer code for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a
- 10 store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-
- 11 page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- 12 e) computer code for receiving a request from a distributor, the request including a
- 13 plurality of distributor parameters;
- 14 f) computer code for extracting information from the database relevant to the
- 15 distributor parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
- 16 the third web-page;
- 17 g) computer code for receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a
- 18 plurality of supplier parameters;
- 19 h) computer code for extracting information from the database relevant to the
- 20 supplier parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
- 21 the fourth web-page
- 22 i) computer code for identifying a contract utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 23 j) computer code for associating the contract with an item to be distributed utilizing
- 24 the at least one web-page;
- 25 k) computer code for preventing the item from being associated with more than one
- 26 contract;
- 27 l) computer code for receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 28 m) computer code for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid
- 29 data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract
- 30 begin date, and a contract end date;
- 31 n) computer code for entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-
- 32 pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components;

- 33 o) computer code for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one
- 34 web-page;
- 35 p) computer code for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a
- 36 supply chain analysis;
- 37 q) computer code for displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at
- 38 least one of the web-pages;
- 39 r) computer code for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one
- 40 web-page; and
- 41 s) computer code for calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the
- 42 supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

- 1 35. A computer product for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain
- 2 management interface, comprising:
- 3 a) a computer signal for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and
- 4 suppliers an identifier;
- 5 b) a computer signal for receiving a request from a user for access to a database
- 6 utilizing a first web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) a computer signal for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and
- 8 supplier using the identifier;
- 9 d) a computer signal for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a
- 10 store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-
- 11 page if the user is identified as a supplier;
- 12 e) a computer signal for receiving a request from a distributor, the request including
- 13 a plurality of distributor parameters;
- 14 f) a computer signal for extracting information from the database relevant to the
- 15 distributor parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
- 16 the third web-page;
- 17 g) a computer signal for receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a
- 18 plurality of supplier parameters;

- 19 h) a computer signal for extracting information from the database relevant to the
- 20 supplier parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on
- 21 the fourth web-page
- 22 i) a computer signal for identifying a contract utilizing at least one of the web-
- 23 pages;
- 24 j) a computer signal for associating the contract with an item to be distributed
- 25 utilizing the at least one web-page;
- 26 k) a computer signal for preventing the item from being associated with more than
- 27 one contract;
- 28 l) a computer signal for receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 29 m) a computer signal for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid
- 30 data is selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract
- 31 begin date, and a contract end date;
- 32 n) a computer signal for entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-
- 33 pages for searching for a plurality of supply chain components;
- 34 o) a computer signal for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least
- 35 one web-page;
- 36 p) a computer signal for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a
- 37 supply chain analysis;
- 38 q) a computer signal for displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing
- 39 at least one of the web-pages;
- 40 r) a computer signal for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least
- 41 one web-page; and
- 42 s) a computer signal for calculating a projected parameter amount associated with
- 43 the supply chain distributors based on the growth value.

- 1 36. A system for navigating a user in a network-based supply chain management
- 2 interface, comprising:
- 3 a) means for assigning each of a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers an
- 4 identifier;

- 5 b) means for receiving a request from a user for access to a database utilizing a first
- 6 web-page, wherein the request includes an identifier;
- 7 c) means for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier
- 8 using the identifier;
- 9 d) means for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third
- 10 web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the
- 11 user is identified as a supplier;
- 12 e) means for receiving a request from a distributor, the request including a plurality
- 13 of distributor parameters;
- 14 f) means for extracting information from the database relevant to the distributor
- 15 parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the third
- 16 web-page;
- 17 g) means for receiving a request from a supplier, the request including a plurality of
- 18 supplier parameters;
- 19 h) means for extracting information from the database relevant to the supplier
- 20 parameters in response to the request for displaying the information on the fourth
- 21 web-page;
- 22 i) means for identifying a contract utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 23 j) means for associating the contract with an item to be distributed utilizing the at
- 24 least one web-page;
- 25 k) means for preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract;
- 26 l) means for receiving bid data utilizing at least one of the web-pages;
- 27 m) means for generating a bid proposal using the bid data, wherein the bid data is
- 28 selected from the group consisting of a buyer name, a due date, a contract begin
- 29 date, and a contract end date;
- 30 n) means for entering a query in a search field of at least one of the web-pages for
- 31 searching for a plurality of supply chain components;
- 32 o) means for listing results of the search in a results field of the at least one web-
- 33 page;
- 34 p) means for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply
- 35 chain analysis;

- 36 q) means for displaying a plurality of supply chain distributors utilizing at least one
37 of the web-pages;
38 r) means for allowing the entry of a growth value utilizing the at least one web-page;
39 and
40 s) means for calculating a projected parameter amount associated with the supply
41 chain distributors based on the growth value.